

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claim 24 as shown below:

24. (New) A fan stage of a ducted fan gas turbine engine that is rotatable about an axis of rotation and defines a downstream direction along the axis of rotation, comprising:

- a fan casing that defines an inner duct wall having a fan rotor region, the inner duct wall of the fan casing at the fan rotor region being convergent;
- a hub disposed concentrically relative to the fan casing;
- a fan rotor that includes multiple swept fan blades, the swept fan blades being spaced apart around the hub and being capable of rotating at speeds providing supersonic working medium gas velocities over the blades to cause a shock in the gas adjacent the inner duct wall, each of the multiple swept fan blades having:
 - a tip profile that corresponds to the inner duct wall of the fan casing;
 - a leading edge that defines a variable sweep angle in a direction perpendicular to the axis of rotation, the leading edge including:
 - an inner region adjacent the hub, the inner region defining a forward steep angle;
 - an intermediate region between the inner region and the fan casing, the intermediate region defining a rearward steep angle; and
 - an outer region between the intermediate region and the fan casing, the outer region being translated forward relative to a leading edge with the same sweep angle as an outward boundary of the intermediate region to provide a sweep angle that causes the blade to intercept the shock.